THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It will vary depending on the location of the Power House. However, based on the increase in freight rate for the average lead, Department of Power have estimated that the average increase in the cost of power generation would be 0.07 paise per unit.

Clearance of Railway lines in Andhra Pradesh

*410. PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that three survey reports new Railway lines in Andhra Pradesh namely Bhadrachalam to Kovvur, Nadikude to Venkatagiri and Nandyal to Yarragunta are awaiting clearance and sanction from the Railway Board; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons for delay in sanctioning these lines, especially in view of the need for development of backward regions in upland areas of coastal districts of Rayalaseema and Telangana?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Promotion of literacy for SC/ST

*411. SHRI JAGADISH JANI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any scheme for promotion of literacy amongst the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and the steps taken to implement the scheme in Orissa?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI L. P. SHAHI): (a) and (b) The Government has accorded priority to the promotion of literacy among Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. Special measures taken in this regard are as follows:—

(i) State Governments/Union Territory Administrations have been advised—

(1) to accord priority in covering districts having literacy rate below the national average under Adult Education Programme.

(2) to ensure that minimum coverage of SC/ST should be 30 per cent and 16 per cent respectively.

(3) to open Adult Education Centres in bastis of Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes.

(ii) Specific funds are being earmarked under Special Component Plan and Tribal Sub-Plan under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Rural Functional Literacy Projects.

(iii) Promotion of literacy has been identified as one of the five Technology Missions with a view to applying technology and scientific research for the benefit of the deprived sections of the society The objective of National Literacy Mission, the name given to Technology Mission for Eradication of Illiteracy, is to impart functional literacy to 80 million illeterate persons in 15—15 age-group by 1995 with the focus on rural areas, particularly persons belonging to Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes.

(iv) The Scheme of "Operation Blackboard" has been designed to implement the National Policy that all children who attain the age of about 11 years by 1990 will have had 5 years of schooling and by 1995, all children will be provided free and compulsory education upto 14 years of age. In the selection of blocks under "Operation Blackboard", preference would be given to those blocks which are educationally disadvantaged and have concentration of persons belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. Preference would also be given to trained teachers belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the appointments of teachers.